DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114.

Priority

2. Applicant's claim for the benefit of a prior-filed application, 60/191,320 filed March 21, 2001, under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) or under 35 U.S.C. 120, 121, or 365(c) is acknowledged.

Information Disclosure Statement

3. The Information Disclosure Statements filed on October 10, 2001 has been considered and electronically signed as attached.

4. After a thorough search and examination of the present application, and in light of the following:

Examiner's Amendments made September 5, 2008 that was authorized to amend claims 28-29, 33-35, 38 and 40-41; and

a update search on prior art conducted in domains (EAST, NPL-ACM, Google, NPL-IEEE, etc);

Claims 28, 30-34, 36-39 and 41 (renumbered to 1-11) are allowed.

Examiner's Amendments

5. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

   Authorization for this Examiner's amendment, listed below, was given in a telephone message by Mr. T. J. Clark, (Registration Number 54,039) on September 5, 2008. The interview summary is attached.

5.1. Please amend claims 28-29, 33-35 and 38-41 as follow:

28. (Currently Amended) A computerized method of managing business data, comprising:

   maintaining a database with a data architecture comprising:

   an entity schema including an entity table, an entity relationships table, a lookup table of entity types, and a lookup table of entity relationships;

   a transaction schema including a transaction table, and a transaction details table,

      wherein each entry in the transaction table is associated with at least one entry in the entity table;

   a list entities schema including a list entities table, a lookup table of lists, a lookup table of list-to-be-added-to, a lookup table of lists-to-be-removed-from, and a lookup table of list tasks-to-add, a lookup table of list cycle-steps, a lookup table of list cycle-

steps-lists-to-add-to, a lookup table of list cycle-steps-list-to-remove-from, a lookup table

of list cycle-step-tasks-to-add,

wherein the entries in the list entities table represent the information associated

with the entries in the entity table and each entry on the list entities table is associated

to an entry in the lookup table of lists;

a tasks table, wherein each entry on the tasks table is associated with at least one

entry in the entity table;

applying an action-based rule when an entry is added to the list entities table; ~~and~~

controlling a display device to display at least one entry from the tasks table in relation

to at least one entry in the entity table:

scanning the entries on the list entities table on a periodic basis;

determining the length of time each entry has existed in the list entries table; and

applying a time based rule if the length of time for an entry exceeds a predetermined

value.

29. (Cancelled)

33. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[29]] 28 wherein applying the time based

rule includes adding an entry to the tasks table.

34. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable

instructions stored upon for performing a method for managing business data

comprising:

maintaining a database with a data architecture comprising:

an entity schema including an entity table, an entity relationships table, a lookup table of

entity types, and a lookup table of entity relationships;

a transaction schema including a transaction table, and a transaction details table,

wherein each entry in the transaction table is associated with at least one entry in the

entity table;

a list entities schema including a list entities table, a lookup table of lists, a lookup

table of list-to-be-added-to, a lookup table of lists-to-be-removed-from, and a lookup

table of list tasks-to-add, a lookup table of list cycle-steps, a lookup table of list cycle-

steps-lists-to-add-to, a lookup table of list cycle-steps-list-to-remove-from, a lookup table

of list cycle-step-tasks-to-add, wherein the entries in the list entities table represent the

information associated with the entries in the entity table and each entry on the list

entities table is associated to an entry in the lookup table of lists;

a tasks table, wherein each entry on the tasks table is associated with at least one

entry in the entity table;

applying an action-based rule when an entry is added to the list entities table; ~~and~~

controlling a display device to display at least one entry from the tasks table in

relation to at least one entry in the entity table;

scanning the entries on the list entities table on a periodic basis;

determining the length of time each entry has existed in the list entries table; and

applying a time based rule if the length of time for an entry exceeds a predetermined value.

35. (Cancelled)

38. (Currently Amended) A computerized system for managing business data comprising:

at least one computer system;

a database component operative to maintain a data architecture comprising: an entity schema including an entity table, an entity relationships table, a lookup table of entity types, and a lookup table of entity relationships;

a transaction schema including a transaction table, and a transaction details table,

wherein each entry in the transaction table is associated with at least one entry in the entity table;

a list entities schema including a list entities table, a lookup table of lists, a lookup table of list-to-be-added-to, a lookup table of lists-to-be-removed-from, and a lookup table of list tasks-to-add, a lookup table of list cycle-steps, a lookup table of list cycle-steps-lists-to-add-to, a lookup table of list cycle-steps-list-to-remove-from, a lookup table of list cycle-step-tasks-to-add,

wherein the entries in the list entities table represent the information associated with the entries in the entity table and each entry on the list entities table is associated to an entry in the lookup table of lists;

a tasks table, wherein each entry on the tasks table is associated with at least one entry in the entity table;

a rules component operative to apply action-based rules when an entry is added to the list entities table; and

a display component operative to display at least one entry from the tasks table in relation to at least one entry in the entity table;

wherein the rules component is operative to scan the entries on the list entities table on a periodic basis, determine the length of time each entry has existed in the list entries table, and apply a time based rule if the length of time for an entry exceeds a predetermined value.

39. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ system of claim 38 wherein the rules component is operative to add an entry to the tasks table.

40. (Cancelled)

41. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ system of claim [[40]] 38 wherein the time based rule includes adding an entry to the tasks table.

Reasons for Allowance

6. The following is the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

In the Examiner's Office Action for Final Rejection of January 24, 2008, U.S.C. § 103, rejections was based primarily on Oracle® Applications Concepts, Release 11 for UNIX,

1998, Oracle®, (hereafter "OraAPP"), in view of Oracle® Inventory Technical Reference

Manual, Release 11i, December 1999, Oracle®, (hereafter "OraInv") and further in view

of Oracle® Applications System Administrator's Guide, Release 11, March 1998,

Oracle®, (hereafter "OraAdm").

In response to the final rejections, in an Amendment filed July 24, 2008, the Applicant

asserted that:

OraApp, OraInv, OraAdm and OraSAM (i.e., the °'Oracle®" references), alone or in

combination, do not teach, disclose or suggest a data architecture including an entity

schema, a transaction schema, and a list entities schema as recited in independent

claims 28, 34 and 38. The Oracle® references discuss known database objects such as

Tables, Views, Procedures, Functions and Triggers (OraAPP, 3-3). Applicant

respectfully asserts, however, that these objects in the Oracle® references provide a

framework for creating field-based process modeling. That is, in a field-based model,

fields grouped together are logically associated and form "ladder"- like structures,

whereby each ladder contains a description of all candidates in relation to the value

being defined (see specification FIGS. 1 and 2). In contrast, independent claims 28, 34,

and 38 provide a list-based process model including an entity schema, a transaction

schema, and a list entities schema including a list entities table, a lookup table of lists, a

lookup table of list-to-be-added-to, a lookup table of lists-to-be-removed-from, and a

lookup table of list tasks-to-add, a lookup table of list cycle-steps, a lookup table of list

cycle- steps-lists-to-add-to, a lookup table of list cycle-steps-list-to-remove-from, a

lookup table of list cycle-step-tasks-to-add. Applicant respectfully asserts that the

Oracle® references do not teach, disclose, or suggest the list-based data architecture

as recited in the claims.

   Based on the Applicant's Amendments, filed on July 24, 2008 and a telephone

interview conducted on September 5, 2008 authorizing the Examiner's amendment as

previously described, Examiner is persuaded that the Application clearly distinguishes

from prior art, specifically the features in combined and as described and highlighted

below:

     a list entities schema including a list entities table, a lookup table of lists, a

lookup table of list-to-be-added-to, a lookup table of lists-to-be-removed-from,

and a lookup table of list tasks-to-add, a lookup table of list cycle-steps, a lookup

table of list cycle-steps-lists-to-add-to, a lookup table of list cycle-steps-list-to-

remove-from, a lookup table of list cycle-step-tasks-to-add, wherein the entries in

the list entities table represent the information associated with the entries in the

entity table and each entry on the list entities table is associated to an entry in the

lookup table of lists;

and the rules component is further performed:

     scanning the entries on the list entities table on a periodic basis;

     determining the length of time each entry has existed in the list entries table;

and

applying a time based rule if the length of time for an entry exceeds a
predetermined value.

Further based on an update search conducted, the claims filed on July 24, 2008 and
amended by the Examiner's Amendments as described above, is hereby considered
and accepted.

The prior art in domains (EAST, NPL-ACM, Google, NPL-IEEE) searches have been
updated. The prior art searched and investigated in domains (EAST, NPL-ACM,
Google, NPL-IEEE) does not fairly teach or suggest the following claimed subject matter
as described and highlighted above.

Claims in the groups (30-33), (36-37) and (39 and 41) are dependent on the Claims
28, 34 and 38, respectively, and also distinct from the prior art for the same reason.

After a search and a thorough examination of the present Application and in light of
the prior arts, Claims 28, 30-34, 36-39 and 41 (renumbered to 1-11) are allowed.

Conclusions

7. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than
the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably
accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on
Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact Information

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the
Examiner should be directed to KUEN S. LU whose telephone number is (571)-272-
4114. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (8:00 am-5:00 pm).
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone pre unsuccessful, the examiner's
Supervisor, Pierre Vital can be reached on (571)-272-4215. The fax phone number for
the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

   Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent
Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for Page 13
published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.
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USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information
system, please call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

 KUEN S. LU   Art Unit 2169

Primary Patent Examiner   February 6, 2009

/Kuen S Lu/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2169